

## Andrew Jackson to Robert Butler, September 17, 1814, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

TO COLONEL ROBERT BUTLER.

Mobile, September 17, 1814. "6 oclock a.m."

*D'r Sir:* I have detained writing untill the mail is closing in hopes to be able to give you information of the Fate of Fort Bowyer Mobile Point, which was attackd on the 15th instant by land and water, by a combined British Spanish and Indian force fitted out in Pensacola. A reenforcement I had sent by water had got within five miles, when their approach was cut off by 4 armed vessels who sailed up and anchored a breast of the Fort, when a tremendous fire was opened on them from the Fort and returned by all the vessels. The Fort was well defended, as the spectators all declare, and the Battle raged untill about 12 oclock at night, when the firing ceased. the 4 last guns were fired from the Fort. a light was seen to arise and sometime after an explosion was both seen and hea[r]d. Capt Laval<sup>1</sup> who commanded a reenforcement attempted to be thrown into the Fort, says he thinks it was the magazine of the Fort, two sailors with him and many others say it was the largest vessel afire and blew up. Whether the Fort is taken or not I have not heard notwithstanding the exertions I have made. I dispatched yesterday confidential officers both by land and water, neither of whom has returned. I hope and believe the fort is not taken, and I have sent down a strong detachment.

1 Capt. William Laval, 3d Regt. Infantry, who in November distinguished himself at Pensacola. The explosion was that of the *Hermes*, which ran aground and was set afire by her commander.

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You must Push on the Troops from Tennessee with all Possible dispatch, as many volunteer mounted men as can be speedily raised, sent on by Fort St Stephens, could I get 800 mounted men shortly I could take Pensacola before it could be fortified strongly. If I had the force I would risque the consequences. You must write me weekly of the situation of the Troops their Position numbers and kind.

In great Haste adieu.

P. S. have all the cherokees and friendly creeks Brought on.